

REMARKS

By the present invention, claims 2, 5, 6, 15 and 16 have been amended, and claims 1, 7-14, 17 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 2-6, 15 and 16 remain pending in the present application. Claims 2, 5, 6, 15 and 16 are independent claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph Rejection

1. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have canceled claims 12 and 13 which renders this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection based on Sharony et al. and Yamamoto et al.

2. Claims 1, 7-11, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharony et al. in view of Yamamoto et al. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7-11, 14, 17 and 18 which renders this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Office that claims 2-6, 15 and 16 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 5, 6, 15 and 16 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and respectfully submit that claims 2-6, 15 and 16 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

4. All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.

Registration No. 41,289

Thomas C. Schoeffler

Registration No. 43,385

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 344-4000

Telefax: (202) 344-8300

Attorney/Agent for Applicant

MAS/TCS